

Types of Wetlands

Wet Meadow

- A result of poorly drained areas
- Very fertile areas that have water-loving grasses, rushes, sedges, and wetland wildflowers
- Seasonally drier than other marshes

Prairie Pothole

- Formed in depressions in formerly glaciated landscapes
- Usually freshwater
- Can be temporary or permanent
- Support bulrushes and cattails near the shore and floating plants in deeper, middle waters

Vernal Pool

- Season depressional wetlands in the Mediterranean climate of the West Coast
- Wet from winter and spring rains
- Dry in summer and fall
- Habitats for rare plants and animals
- Small, easily bulldozed, disappearing rapidly

Swamp

- Forested, low, spongy land generally saturated with water and covered with trees and aquatic vegetation

Playa Lake

- Round hollows in U.S. Southern high plains
- Temporary collections of rainwater
- Important water source in desert regions
- Support high wildlife biodiversity and farming

Bog

- Spongy deposits of peat from collection of sphagnum moss in standing water for centuries
- No water flow
- High acidity
- Low nutrient levels
- Support highly adapted and unique plants such as carnivorous fly catchers

Pocosin

- “Swamp on a hill”
- Waterlogged forests and shrub areas with a high water table
- Fires typically burn the vegetation every few years
- Water collects from precipitation rather than part of a flowing system
- High acidity, low in nutrients, low or no flow rate
- Occur in small as well as expansive patches in Southeast coastal U.S.

Fen

- Peatlands
- Flowing groundwater
- Higher nutrient content and lower acidity than bogs
- Support diverse populations of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers
- Mostly found in northeastern areas of North America

Tidal Marsh

- Flooded at high tide and exposed at low tide
- Water is brackish when diluted by streams that drain the land nearby
- Populated by pickleweed and cord grass or wire grass and small salt-tolerant bushes
- Many invertebrates burrow in the bottom
- Nurseries for ocean fish and invertebrates